

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

USDC SDNY  
DOCUMENT  
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DOC #.  
DATE FILED

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF  
JOHN SANTIAGO, #07A1732 - Petitioner

-against-

D. LACLAIR, SUPERINTENDENT, FRANKLIN C.F - Respondent

REVIEWED BY THE HONORABLE MAGISTRATE JUDGE, G.A. YANTHIS  
08 Civ. 9906 (BAT)(GAY)

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

WRITTEN OBJECTIONS TO REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION

RELIEF REQUESTED:

THAT A WRIT FOR A HABEAS CORPUS AND OR AN EVIDENTIARY  
HEARING BE GRANTED FOR THE REASONS STATED IN THE INITIAL  
PETITION AND THE REASONS STATED WITHIN THIS OBJECTION TO THE  
REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION

ENCLOSED COPY TO:

- 1). CLERK OF THE COURT  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK  
300 QUARROPAS STREET  
WHITE PLAINS, NEW YORK 10601
- 2). CHAMBERS OF THE HONORABLE,  
GEORGE A. YANTHIS, MAGISTRATE JUDGE  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK  
300 QUARROPAS STREET  
WHITE PLAINS, NEW YORK 10601

PREPARED BY: JOHN SANTIAGO - PRO-SE LITIGANT  
AUBURN CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

125 STATE STREET, AUBURN, MA 01501

STATES DISTRICT COURT  
IN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK:

\_\_\_\_\_X  
matter of the application of

JOHN SANTIAGO, #07A1732  
petitioner,

against-

JOHN A. AIR, SUPERINTENDENT, FRANKLIN C.F.  
respondent,  
\_\_\_\_\_X

OBJECTIONS TO REPORT  
AND RECOMMENDATION

08 civ. 9906 (B)

OF NEW YORK )  
OF CAYUGA )ss:

I, John Santiago, am the petitioner in the above entitled-action  
the following statements to be true under the penalties of perjury

1). I am a Pro-Se litigant in the above entitled-action and as  
familiar with the facts of this matter.

2). I submit this "Written Objections" in opposition to the Honorable  
Judge, George A. Yanthis, Report and Recommendation, that petition for  
habeas corpus be denied for the reasons therein.


3). I prepared this written objection upon information and belief  
upon my research and review of the entire record and report and re

4). I, John Santiago, from herein would be referred to as petitioner  
District Attorney's Office whom represent the Superintendent, would  
be referred to as the respondent.

5). Please take notice, that this objection is being filed in  
in accordance with the directive of the report and recommendation of the

6). On November 12, 2010, petitioner received a copy of said recommendation and is hereby complying with said directive and submitting objection in a timely fashion, which a copy has been forwarded to the Clerk of this Court.

7). Please refer to the attached "written objection" to the recommendation of the Honorable George A. Yanthis, United States Magistrate Judge.

  
John Santiago, #074  
Auburn Correctional Institution  
135 State Street, 1st Floor  
Auburn, New York 13021

Clerk of the Court  
United States District Court  
Quarropas Street  
West Plains, New York 10601

STATES DISTRICT COURT  
IN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK:

\_\_\_\_\_X  
matter of the application of

ANTONIO, #07A1732  
petitioner,

against-

\_\_\_\_\_  
AIR, SUPERINTENDENT, FRANKLIN C.F.  
respondent,

\_\_\_\_\_  
THE HON. DISTRICT JUDGE, BATTS:

OBJECTIONS TO  
AND RECOMMENDATION

08 Civ. 9906

OBJECTIONS TO REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION:

1). In addressing the present writ, this Honorable Court should recognize that petitioner is proceeding as a pro-se litigant, hence, his submissions should be held, "to a less stringent standards than formal pleading drafted by an attorney." *Hughes v. Rowe*, 449 U.S. 5, 9. *Ferran v. Town of Nassau*, 11 F.3d 100 (2d Cir. 1993). Therefore, this Court should read the pleading of the petitioner herein, liberally and interpret them to raise the strongest arguments possible. *McPherson v. Coombe*, 174 F.3d 276, 280 (2nd Cir. 1999). Nevertheless, petitioner is also aware that pro-se status does not exempt a party from compliance with relevant rules of procedural and substantive law. *Traguth v. Eastern Shore*, 10 F.2d 90, 95 (2nd Cir. 1983).

POINT ONE - IN OBJECTION:

2). The Magistrate Judge, George A. Yanthis, concluded that petitioner has established that the State of New York is in violation of the

on is contrary to petitioner's contention. Thus, he has not provided convincing evidence to refute the state court's finding. (report, pg 6.)

3). The Honorable Judge, Yanthis, went on further to conclude that petitioner also failed to establish that the state court's decision was based on an unreasonable application of, the **Strickland** standard. In...[p]etitioner fails to overcome the presumption that, under the circumstances, his counsel's action could be considered a sound defense.

4). Nevertheless, despite the provision of the plea allocution, petitioner retains the right to contend that there were errors in the process leading to the acceptance of petitioner's guilty plea. Therefore, the plea allocution is not the factual basis for review and this Court should turn its attention to the performance of counsel's performance prior to the plea.

5). Turning to the principles that are governing in the matter at hand, under Supreme Court Precedent, **Hill v. Lockhart**, 474 U.S. 52, (1985), the second prong of **Strickland v. Washington**, 466 U.S. 668, does apply. Here, when a defendant enters a guilty plea upon counsel's advice, the voluntariness of the plea depends on whether the advice was within the range of competent advice of attorney in criminal cases. **Hill v. Lockhart**, 474 U.S. 52.

6). Petitioner pleaded guilty in accordance with counsel's advice on May 5, 2007. Therefore, this Court must turn its attention to the voluntariness of counsel's advice and the basis that counsel relied upon, in determining whether the plea was made with full understanding into pleading guilty, and as a result, whether such recon-

the circumstances, his counsel's action could be considered a sound decision. (Report and Recommendation, pg 6.). Under **Strickland v. Washington**, the Court agreed that the Sixth Amendment imposes on counsel a duty to provide reasonably effective assistance must be based on professional decisions and informed legal choices that can be made only after investigation of the facts. The Court observed that counsel's investigatory decision must be assessed based on information known at the time of the decision, not in hindsight, and that the amount of pretrial investigation that is reasonable defies precise definition. "The Court also concluded that; [t]he reasonableness of counsel's action may be determined or substantially influenced by the defendant's decisions or actions. Counsel's action are usually based, quite properly, on the strategic choices made by the defendant and on information supplied by the defendant. In particular, what investigation decision are reasonable under the circumstances only on such information.

8). Here, counsel was informed that petitioner had a witness to the fraudulent testimony and that said witness was located in the same County Jail where petitioner was in at the time. Counsel just flat out refused to investigate the potential witness and continued to advise petitioner to plea guilty to the crime. On May 5, 2007, during the jury selection; petitioner pleaded guilty to the crime on counsel's advice. Petitioner accepted counsel's advice and pleaded guilty to the crime, without any corroborating evidence or testimony that petitioner was innocent of the fraudulent status of the gift card, petitioner was doomed to a life in prison.

and all other related material to substantiate his claims and the said motion, nor did it even want to grant an evidentiary hearing. In fact, petitioner's claims were true, hence, petitioner has no other basis, but to allege.

9). The Supreme Court in **Strickland**, clearly stated that..."[i]f there is one plausible line of defense...counsel must conduct a 'reasonable investigation' into the line of defense, since there can be no strategic considerations such as an investigation unnecessary." Petitioner only had one basis "that he did not know the gift card was fraudulent." Therefore, there was no obligation to conduct an investigation to determine whether petitioner was guilty or not, without having a basis to determine such recommendation. Counsel's performance fell below the range of competence demanded in such cases. As a result, the lack thereof, cannot be inferred as a strategic and tactical alternative.

**POINT TWO - IN OBJECTION:**

10). In the report and recommendation, the Hon. Judge Yanthis, recommended that two of petitioner's claim be dismissed on the basis that petitioner allege that absent said deficiency, he would have pleaded not guilty to trial. As such, petitioner did not allege he suffered prejudice. (Recommendation, pg. 8, para 3.).

11). Petitioner does not agree with the report and recommendation to abandon this claim (point two, counsel was unfamiliar with the law of indictment).

POINT THREE - IN OBJECTION:

12). Petitioner would like to clarify, reiterate and emphasize that petitioner does not contest the revocation of parole as the respondent wish for petitioner to believe, so as to place the focus on the "collateral consequences" to dismiss petitioner's writ.

13). Here, petitioner is contending that Penal Law 70.25(2-a) (30 (1)(b) had such a definite, immediate and largely automatic effect of punishment as to constitute a direct consequence of the plea of guilty to the maximum negotiated term.

14). Under Supreme Court precedent, **Brady v. United States**, 397 U.S. 83, 80 S.Ct. 1079, 24 L.Ed.2d 307 (1970), and **North Carolina v. Alford**, 400 U.S. 25, 31, a defendant has a constitutional right to be informed of the direct consequences of his plea, and the consequences must connote. In the matter at hand, although, petitioner was eventually sentenced to the negotiated 1½ to 3, that sentence was directed to run concurrently with the undischarged term. In accordance with case law from the Appellate Division, **Morbillo**, 56 A.D.3d 694 (3rd dept. 2008), the imposition of a sentence, to an undischarged term, is a "direct consequence" and therefore the judge and/or counsel must inform the defendant prior to the plea, that his sentence is consecutive to his undischarged term, if not, the plea cannot be said to be made knowingly and intelligently, in violation of the due process clause. **Peo v. Williams**, 10 N.Y.3d 242 (2005). This principle involves an unreasonable application of the Appellate Law and contrary to Supreme Court precedent. **Brady v. United States**.

15). Petitioner's negotiated sentence of a 3 year maximum term



ted sentence, violates the double jeopardy clause. **United States v. Esposito**, 449 U.S. 117, emphasis added.

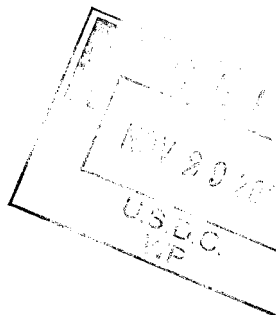
16). Petitioner's supplemental pleadings was evidence that petitioner appeared before the parole board after the legal requirements of the new maximum, continues to be reviewed for discretionary release for ten years (Att. CPFI 2°) that petitioner has completed the legal requirements of the new maximum. This is undisputed, a direct consequence.

17). This matter is not identical to **Wilson v. McGinnis**, 413 F.3d 1000 (9th Cir. 2005), where the court addressed two consecutive state sentences imposed on petitioner. The court ruled that because the trial court had the "discretion" to sentence petitioner to concurrent or consecutive terms, under Penal Law 70.25 the fact that a consecutive sentence imposed was a collateral consequence. Here, petitioner argues that there is no discretion in the trial court under Penal Law 70.25 to sentence petitioner to concurrent or consecutive terms. Therefore, renders the consecutive sentence imposed, a direct consequence of the trial court's decision. Petitioner should have been informed about, prior to the plea, since the trial court was aware of the statutory statute that imposes an enhanced punishment on petitioner's sentence.

**WHEREFORE**, petitioner relies upon his Memorandum of Law, in Response to the Respondent's Opposition and the contentions herein, for this court to grant petitioner's motion for judgment of acquittal and recommendation as set forth by the Honorable Judge Yanthi. Petitioner requests the court to order an evidentiary hearing to determine whether counsel was ineffective and whether petitioner plea was entered knowingly and voluntarily and for what purpose.

**John Santiago, #07A1732  
Auburn Correctional Facility  
135 State Street, P.O.Box 618  
Auburn, New York 13024**

November 22, 2010



of the Court  
United States District Court  
Southern District of New York  
60 Wall Street  
New York, New York 10601

Civ. 9906 (Bat)(GAY).

Court Clerk:

Please find enclosed an original copy of a "written objection" and by a report and recommendation by the Hon. George A. Yanthis. In addition, a copy is being forwarded to your office as directed by the Hon. Judge, in his report. This written objection is being filed in a timely manner and therefore, the District Judge has the necessary documents to review with review and render a determination. Thank you for your time.

  
John Santiago, #07A17



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

MEMORANDUM

*Pro Se* Office

Honorable Deborah A. Battis, US DJ

*Se* Office, x0177 (PM)

December 6, 2010

Antigao v. J. Laclae, No. 08 Civ. 9906

attached document, which was received by this Office on 11/30/10, has  
to the Court for filing. The document is deficient as indicated below. Inste  
the document to the docketing unit, I am forwarding these papers to you for  
on. See Fed. R. Civ. P. 5(d)(2)(B), (4). Please return this memorandum with the att  
is Office indicating at the bottom what action should be taken.

original signature.

affirmation of service/proof of service

document appears to be a request in the form of a letter.

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REPT FOR FILING

( ) RETURN TO *PRO SE* LITIGAN